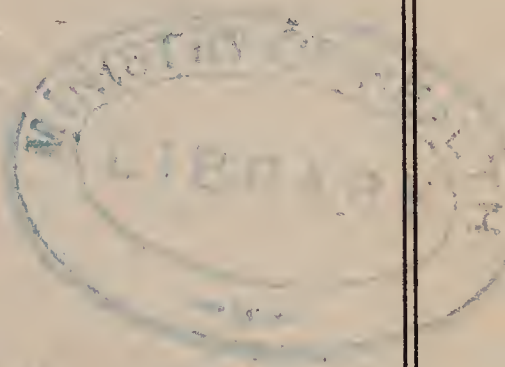


ELLESMERE PORT URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the year 1951

W. J. BIRCHALL,
M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

E. TUFT,
M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

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INTRODUCTION

**To: The Chairman and Members of the
Ellesmere Port Urban District Council.**

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Urban District for the year 1951.

The local statistics relating to health are generally satisfactory, and compare favourably with the National figures.

A summary of the chief items is given below, together with those for England and Wales, and the smaller towns.

The Crude Death Rate is 10.59 per 1,000 estimated population, compared with 8.78 in 1950. The Death Rate for England and Wales and 148 smaller towns is 12.5.

The Birth Rate is 18.48 per 1,000 population, in 1950 the rate was 19.12. The rate for England and Wales is 15.5; and for 148 smaller towns the figure is 16.7.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 31.45 per 1,000 live births, compared with 35.8 in 1950. The Rate for England and Wales is 29.6, and for 148 smaller towns 27.6.

No cases of Food Poisoning were reported.

Measles (385) and Whooping Cough (93) were prevalent throughout the year in much the same way as in 1950. Incidence of other Infectious Diseases was low. Two cases of Diphtheria were notified, and four cases of poliomyelitis occurred.

Thirty new cases of Tuberculosis were reported, of which 28 were Pulmonary and two Non-Pulmonary; in 1950 there were 38 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 7 Non-Pulmonary notified.

The work of the Sanitary Department continues to expand in all its branches, as might be expected in a rapidly growing industrial town.

From the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector it will be observed that housing, overcrowding and the supervision of Food premises continue to absorb much time of the Sanitary Inspector's, quite apart from other responsible duties requiring considerable technical knowledge. Good work has been done in the sphere of Food Hygiene, deserving of encouragement and support from the Food Traders and the general public alike.

The general standard of samples submitted in the course of routine sampling of foodstuffs, including milk, is satisfactory.

Active attention has been given to a number of complaints received in relation to nuisances arising from industrial concerns. These complaints appear inevitable in a rapidly expanding industrial district. Full co-operation has been maintained with the appropriate Inspector of Factories whenever necessary.

Included at the end of the Report is an extract from my Annual Report as Divisional Medical Officer, on the Personal Health Services operating on behalf of the County Council in the South West Cheshire Division, of which Ellesmere Port Urban District forms part.

In conclusion I express my appreciation of the support received from the Members of the Health Committee and the co-operation and assistance of the Staff of the Department during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

WALTER J. BIRCHALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

Ellesmere Port Urban District Council

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1951

The Urban District of Ellesmere Port includes the parishes of Great Stanney, Great Sutton, Ince, Childer Thornton, Little Sutton and Hooton.

Administrative Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

E. TUFT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

R. K. FRANCIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

G. KINREAD, M.S.I.A.

G. CARR, M.S.I.A.

Clerk: G. POWELL.

Shorthand-Typists: (Part-time)

Mrs. B. E. WOODHOUSE. Mrs. B. M. PERCIVAL.

Clerk-Typist: Miss K. EVANS.

Statistics and Social Conditions

Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32,670
Area (acres)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,144
Number of houses and flats in the area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,830
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£229,600
Sum represented by the Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£843

The Natural increase in Population (that is excess of births over deaths) is shewn in the following tables.

Natural Increase per 1,000			Natural Increase per 1,000		
Year	Population	Pop.	Year	Population	Pop.
1936	25,100	10.9	1944	27,220	13.44
1937	25,610	8.9	1945	27,160	10.9
1938	26,030	7.03	1946	28,740	12.49
1939	26,920	11.75	1947	29,670	15.9
1940	28,160	9.8	1948	30,860	13.3
1941	28,530	9.25	1949	31,290	10.88
1942	27,950	11.16	1950	32,110	10.33
1943	27,560	15.5	1951	32,670	7.89

The Natural increase in Population (that is excess of births over deaths) 1936—1951 (England and Wales).

Year						Per 1,000 Population	Year						Per 1,000 Population
1936	...	...	...	...	...	2.7	1944	...	...	...	...	...	6.0
1937	...	...	...	...	...	2.7	1945	...	...	...	...	...	4.7
1938	...	...	...	...	...	3.5	1946	...	...	...	...	...	7.6
1939	...	...	...	...	...	2.9	1947	...	...	...	...	...	8.5
1940	...	...	...	...	...	0.3	1948	...	...	...	...	...	7.1
1941	...	...	...	...	...	1.3	1949	...	...	...	...	...	5.0
1942	...	...	...	...	...	4.2	1950	...	...	...	...	...	4.2
1943	...	...	...	...	...	4.4	1951	...	...	...	...	...	3.0

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1951

(Compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General)

LIVE BIRTHS

									Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	295	290	585
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	11	19
									303	301	604

Birth rate	Corrected	Comparability
per 1,000 Population 18.48.	Birth rate 18.48.	Factor 1.00

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (1951) in 148 smaller towns (population 25,000—50,000) — 16.7.

STILL BIRTHS

									Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	6	10
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
									4	7	11

Still birth rate 17.88 per 1,000 total live and still births or .33 per 1,000 of the population.

The average number of births per annum in the years 1936—1950 was 584.

TABLE OF NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS AND
BIRTH RATES, 1936—1950.

Year	Number	Birth Rate	Year	Number	Birth Rate
1936	503	20.04	1944	611	22.44
1937	483	18.86	1945	555	20.43
1938	476	18.28	1946	635	22.09
1939	543	20.25	1947	730	24.60
1940	566	20.09	1948	665	21.54
1941	565	19.80	1949	673	21.50
1942	538	19.96	1950	614	19.31
1943	603	21.87			

Birth Rate, England and Wales, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.5
Birth Rate, England and Wales, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.8
Birth Rate, Administrative County of Cheshire, 1950	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.8

DEATHS

Males ... 168	Females ... 178	Total ... 346
Death Rate 10.59.	Corrected Death Rate 14.08.	
Comparability factor 1.33.		

**TABLE OF NUMBER OF DEATHS AND DEATH RATES,
1936—1950.**

Year	Number	Death Rate	Year	Number	Death Rate
1936	227	9.0	1944	245	9.0
1937	254	9.91	1945	252	9.28
1938	293	11.26	1946	276	9.60
1939	229	8.50	1947	257	8.66
1940	291	10.3	1948	253	8.19
1941	301	10.5	1949	223	9.54
1942	246	8.79	1950	282	11.76
1943	276	10.01			

The average number of deaths per annum in the years 1936—1950 was 260.

Death Rate— England and Wales 12.5 per 1,000 population
 Death Rate — 148 smaller towns 12.5 per 1,000 population

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	Rate per 1,000 live Births
Puerperal Sepsis		Nil	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes		1	1.6	1.7

The figures for England and Wales were :—

	Death Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	0.10
Other Puerperal Causes	0.18
	—
	0.28
	—

**DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER
ONE YEAR OF AGE**

All infants per 1,000 live births	19	31.45
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	17	29.05
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	2	1

The figures for England and Wales were :—

All England and Wales	29.6
148 smaller towns (estimated resident population 25,000—50,000 Census 1931)	27.6
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	33.9
London (Administrative County)	26.4
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	12

TABLE OF INFANT MORTALITY, 1936—1950.

Year	Rate per 1,000 Births	Year	Rate per 1,000 Births
1936	51.7	1944	34.3
1937	66.2	1945	46.85
1938	48.3	1946	55.11
1939	58.93	1947	56.16
1940	63.3	1948	33.08
1941	72.9	1949	31.20
1942	35.8	1950	35.83
1943	71.3		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)...			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea			2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			49

Causes of Deaths

		Males	Females	Total
V 1.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	3	3	6
2.	Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	—	1
3.	Syphilis	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10.	Cancer of the Stomach and Duodenum	6	1	7
11.	Cancer of the Lung Bronchus	11	2	13
12.	Cancer of the Breast	—	3	3
13.	Cancer of the Uterus	—	3	3
14.	Other forms of Cancer	10	13	23
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	—	2
16.	Diabetes	—	—	—
17.	Intracranial Vascular Lesions	15	32	47
18.	Heart Disease	35	12	47
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	6	5	11
20.	Other Heart Diseases	18	38	56
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	2	5	7
22.	Influenza	6	11	17
23.	Pneumonia	12	13	25
24.	Bronchitis	7	9	16
25.	Other Diseases of the Respiratory System...	3	—	3
26.	Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum	2	—	2
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	—	2	2
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	4	6
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostrate	1	—	1
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	1	1
31.	Congenital Malformations	4	3	7
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	14	26
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	4	—	4
34.	All other Accidents	3	3	6
35.	Suicide	2	—	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	1	1
Total		168	178	346

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

The personnel comprising the administrative staff together with their qualifications, is indicated at the beginning of this report.

The following services are available:—

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health Laboratory Service at Birkenhead undertakes free bacteriological examinations of milk, water and other specimens for local authorities.

Food and drugs administration is carried out by the County Council and their officers submit samples for examination by the County Analyst.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases were reported during 1951.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Ambulance Service for the district operates under the direction of the South West Cheshire Divisional Health Committee of the County Council, with the help of the Chester City Ambulances acting as an agency service. The Ambulance Depot is situated in Ellesmere Port.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

Two full time District Nurses are engaged under the direction of the County Council in Ellesmere Port and an additional one in Little Sutton.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

These are held at the Child Welfare Centre, York Road, Ellesmere Port, the Methodist Hall, Little Sutton, and the Community Centre, Overpool.

There is no accommodation available at present for a clinic in the village of Ince and transport by special bus to Ellesmere Port is provided by the County Council twice each month.

Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Aural, Ante and Post Natal Clinics are organised under the supervision of specialists at Ellesmere Port.

A school clinic with Dental Services is also held at the Welfare Centre, Ellesmere Port.

HOSPITALS.

The Clatterbridge General and Isolation Hospitals in addition to the Ellesmere Port and District Hospital, serve the town for most purposes.

Maternity. Hospital provision is at Clatterbridge where patients are under the supervision of the Consulting Obstetrician who attends the ante-natal clinics at the Welfare Centre.

In addition there is a separate maternity home at Heswall.

Midwives. There are eight midwives practising in the District, five of whom are employed by the County Council.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The prevalence of Infectious Diseases during the period 1940—1951 is shewn in the following table which gives the case rate per 1,000 of the population.

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Enteric Fever	Erysip- elas	Measles	Whooping Cough
1940	1.59	1.13	0.03	0.31	1.34	0.03
1941	1.12	0.7	0.07	0.14	9.07	0.14
1942	1.14	5.90	0.00	0.03	1.57	0.07
1943	3.08	12.51	0.00	0.00	10.26	0.18
1944	2.56	2.09	0.00	0.07	0.62	0.47
1945	9.46	0.73	0.00	0.22	10.19	0.00
1946	3.47	0.20	0.00	0.20	0.38	0.24
1947	1.85	0.30	0.03	0.20	5.12	0.20
1948	1.32	0.16	0.00	0.20	2.68	1.74
1949	1.60	0.00	0.06	0.09	10.87	4.12
1950	1.21	0.06	0.00	0.09	10.18	4.17
1951	1.68	0.06	0.00	0.18	11.78	2.84

The corresponding notification rates for England and Wales are as follows :—

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Enteric Fever	Erysip- elas	Measles	Whooping Cough
1940	1.63	1.16	0.07	0.33	10.24	1.34
1941	1.47	1.25	0.03	0.30	10.33	4.39
1942	2.19	1.05	0.01	0.30	7.46	1.73
1943	3.01	0.88	0.02	0.31	9.88	2.54
1944	2.40	0.58	0.01	0.29	4.16	2.49
1945	1.89	0.46	0.02	0.25	11.67	1.64
1946	1.38	0.28	0.03	0.22	3.92	2.28
1947	1.37	0.13	0.02	0.19	9.41	2.22
1948	1.73	0.08	0.02	0.21	9.34	3.42
1949	1.63	0.04	0.02	0.19	8.95	2.39
1950	1.50	0.02	0.00	0.17	8.39	3.60
1951	1.11	0.02	0.00	0.14	14.07	3.87

There were two notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia in 1951, shewing a notification rate of .06. The corresponding notification rate for England and Wales per 1,000 births (live and still) is 10.66.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1951

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	55	35	—
Diphtheria	2	2	—
Pneumonia	23	—	2
Whooping Cough	93	2	—
Erysipelas	6	2	—
Dysentery	6	3	—
Measles	385	4	—
Poliomyelitis	4	4	—
Paratyphoid Fever	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	—
	577	54	2

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases		Non-		Deaths		Non-	
	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.	Pulmonary M.	Pulmonary F.
0— 1 year.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years ...	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 years ...	6	4	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35 years ...	6	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
35—45 years ...	1	3	1	—	1	—	—	—
45—55 years ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65 years ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
65 Upwards ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	17	11	1	1	3	2	1	—

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CASES

Disease	North East	North West	South	Whitby	Stanney	Victoria	Overpool	Childer Thornton	Little Sutton	Great Sutton	Grange	Ince	Total
Scarlet Fever	5	2	7	1	19	7	4	—	3	2	4	1	55
Pneumonia	1	4	2	4	3	6	1	—	—	—	2	—	23
Whooping Cough	—	10	11	9	18	4	9	4	9	3	15	1	93
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	6
Dysentery	—	—	2	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Measles	15	10	19	74	51	42	30	1	31	14	71	27	385
Polioomyelitis	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	4
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Paratyphoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2	4	3	1	7	1	2	4	1	2	—	28
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	23	30	46	92	96	71	45	7	52	21	95	29	607

TABLE OF AGE GROUPS SHOWING THE TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS, 1951

[illegible]

Sanitary Circumstances

WATER SUPPLY.

The mains of the West Cheshire Water Board supply the entire area and from them there is a plentiful supply of excellent water.

The supply is laid into the houses with the following exceptions: a pair of cottages at Netherpool by one standpipe, a bungalow and two cottages at Great Sutton by one standpipe and a house in Little Sutton which obtains its supply from a private well. A number of houses in the Parish of Ince also obtain water through standpipes, the remainder having a piped supply laid into the houses.

The water throughout the district is in a piped supply from the pumping stations at Hooton, Prenton and Mouldsworth. Softening operations have been temporarily suspended at the Hooton Pumping Station as well as at Prenton and Mouldsworth.

During the year 77 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and 16 samples for Chemical Analysis from the flamed tap in the softening house of the three pumping stations.

The following are the results of a sample of water taken for Bacteriological examination from the pumping station at Hooton on the 1st August, 1951, and this is a fair specimen of the average result from all 77 samples throughout the year.

Similarly appended is a copy of the analyst's report on the Chemical analysis of a sample taken from the pumping station at Prenton on the 30th March, 1951, here again this is a satisfactory sample which does not differ in any major respect from the other 15 samples for chemical analysis made during the year, except that all samples taken from the Mouldsworth and Prenton pumping Stations were hard in character, though not to a degree which could be considered unsatisfactory.

Bacteriological Report on the Examination of a Sample of Water

Received 1st August, 1951, from the West Cheshire Water Board.
Labelled :
Hooton Pumping Station, No. 6 Borehole. Temporary Pumping Plant.
Free water surface

Date: 31.7.51., 11-30 a.m. Taken by: C. Hardman.
Witness: K. G. Campbell. Signed: C. Hardman.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C in one day	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C in two days	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.
Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre of water growing upon Agar at 37°C in three days	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.
Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after two days incubation at 37°C (Presumptive Bacillus Coli Test)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Absent from 100 ml.
Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus Coli	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Absent from 100 ml.
Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction of the B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Absent from 100 ml.

This is a very satisfactory sample. It is clear and bright in appearance and of the highest standard of bacterial purity consistent with a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES,
for the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Chemical Analysis on the Examination of a Sample of Water

Analysis of a sample of water received on the 30th March, 1951, from the West Cheshire Water Board, labelled Prenton Pumping Station. Flamed tap in No. 2 house.

Taken by: C. Hardman. Witness: W. Leyland.
Date: 29.3.51; 3-30 p.m.

Chemical Results in parts per Million.

Appearance	...	...	...	...	...	Bright with very few mineral particles.
Colour	...	...	...	...	Nil.	Odour Faintly chlorinous
Reaction ph.	...	...	...	...	7.2	Free Carbondioxide 16
Electric Conductivity at 20°C	570					Turbidity less than 3.
Total Solids, 180°C	...	...	...	380		Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate—175
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	70			
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	3.2			Nitrates less than 0.01.
Hardness: Permanent	...	...	75			(— Grains per Gallon).
Temporary	...	...	175			(— Grains per Gallon).
Total	...	...	250			(— Grains per Gallon).
Metals	...	...	...	Absent		
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	—		Ammoniacal Nitrogen 0.007.
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	—			Albuminoid Nitrogen 0.000.
Oxygen absorbed	...	...	...	0.15		

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not unduly so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. These results are consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES.

The following information has been supplied by the Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board.

(1) *Particulars of any new source of Public Supply.*

An existing borehole at Hooton (No. 5) has been deepened. The original depth was 851 feet below surface and this has been increased to 1,202 feet. This bore has not been in service since the completion of deepening operations but it is intended that same will eventually be equipped with pumping plant and thus become contributory to the yield of this site, which is at present wholly derived from new bores Nos. 6 and 7, particulars of which were contained in the report for last year.

Part of the River Dee scheme has been completed and water extracted from the river but this is not potable water, being exclusively for industrial use.

(2) *Improvements to existing sources of public supply.*

Chemical and Bacteriological Reports throughout the year have been of satisfactory order and distribution has been maintained throughout the District.

(3) *Important Extension of Mains.*

Housing sites within the area of administration of your Council including the following estates, Orchard Farm, Rivacre, Whitby.

(4) *Have pipe supplies been satisfactory in quality and quantity ?*

There has been a large demand for metered trade supplies which have, on occasions, caused some slight pressure fluctuations but, generally speaking, relative to the area with which you are concerned, the answer to this question is in the affirmative.

(5) *Is any part of the District in need of an improved water supply ?*

Pressure fluctuations were experienced for a time in a small section of the Whitby area but since the installation of a new connection near the Sportsman's Arms no further reports have been received of pressure fluctuations and concerning the water supply throughout Ellesmere Port, this appears generally satisfactory at present.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Cheshire County Council has kindly supplied me with the following particulars of samples obtained in the Urban District of Ellesmere Port and forwarded to the Public Analyst during the year ended 31st December, 1951.

LIST OF SAMPLES OBTAINED IN THE ELLESMERE PORT URBAN DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

Article.	Number Obtained.	Number adulterated or not up to standard.
Butter	3	—
Brandy	1	—
Beef & Vegetable puree ...	1	—
Beans in tomato sauce ...	1	—
Cheese	3	—
Cooking Fat	3	—
Cod Liver Oil and Malt ...	2	—
Dessicated Coconut	1	—
Fish Cakes	2	—
Honey Mixture	1	—
Ice Cream	5	—
Jam	1	—
Lemon Curd	1	—
Luncheon Meat	1	—
Laxative tablets	1	—
Milk	46	2
Margarine	3	—
Meat Paste	1	—
Meat Rissoles	1	—
Olive Oil	1	—
Roasted and salted almonds.	1	—
Sweets	1	—
Sausage	1	—
Whisky	1	—
	—	—
	83	2
	—	—

PARTICULARS OF MILK SAMPLES NOT UP TO STANDARD

One milk concerned a bottle purchased on retail sale and found to contain 4.8 per cent of extraneous water. The seller was a very well known Dairy Company and although the whole matter was thoroughly investigated it was impossible to find the cause of the trouble. There could be no question of deliberate intent by the Company as everything is done at the Dairy to ensure a pure supply. The Company was formally cautioned by letter.

The other non-standard sample also concerned the retail sale of a bottle of milk which proved to be 14.6 per cent deficient in fat. It was T.T. morning's milk and any suggestion of skimming was ruled out. Following investigation of this case there is little doubt that a number of the producer-retailer's cows were giving milk below Standard and as a result of advice subsequently given, no further trouble has arisen. Incidentally, another sample taken at the same time was genuine.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

I beg to furnish details of the work carried out by the department relative to the sanitary circumstances and inspection of the district.

Changes of staff took place during the year with the resignation of Mr. J. Goddard on his taking up a post in Northern Rhodesia.

The recommendation for a further inspector was considered at the time of this vacancy and two appointments were made, Mr. Carr and Mr. Kinread commencing duties in November.

PART ONE

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Result of Service of Notices and Number served.

Nature of Inspections	Number	Formal	Informal	Complied with	Re- main- ing in hand
Dwelling Houses (General)	306	58	287	253	34
Dwelling Houses (Housing Act, 1936)	1	—	1	1	—
Revisits to work in progress	1404	—	—	—	—
Schools	3	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds, Caravans	42	5	—	5	—
Back Yards	466	6	466	466	—
Privies, Cesspools, Septic tanks, etc	8	—	8	8	—
Drainage : Inspections	105	—	26	26	—
Tests	3	—	—	—	—
Ditches, Watercourses	19	—	1	1	—
Offensive Accumulations	15	—	4	4	—
Keeping of Animals	2	—	2	2	—
Food Premises	761	—	130	77	53
Factories : Mechanical	8	—	2	2	—
Non-Mechanical	2	—	—	—	—
Piggeries	4	—	2	2	—
Dairies & Milk Distributors	74	—	4	4	—
Smoke Observations	14	—	—	—	—
Canal Boats	8	2	—	—	2
Infectious Diseases : Enquiries	114	—	—	—	—
Other Visits	32	—	—	—	—
Disinfections	90	—	—	—	—
Verminous Premises : Inspections	49	—	49	49	—
Disinfestations	64	—	—	—	—
Rat Infestations	450	—	450	450	—
Samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination :—Milk	101	—	—	—	—
Rinse Water (Catering Establishments)	12	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream	56	—	—	—	—
Other foods	1	—	—	—	—
Swimming Pool	2	—	—	—	—
Drinking Water	10	—	—	—	—
Shops Act	287	—	21	21	—
Reference to other Departments and Miscellaneous Visits	780	—	31	30	1
Interviews	496	—	—	—	—
Refuse disposal site	16	—	2	2	—
Overcrowding : Enquiries	111	—	—	—	—
Other Visits	113	—	—	—	—
Former Military Camps	22	—	12	12	—
TOTALS	6051	71	1498	1415	90

Public Health Act and Housing Act, 1936

In respect of non-compliance with Abatement Notices, several warning letters were sent by the Clerk of the Council prior to any legal proceedings being instituted.

It was not found necessary to take any further action in connection with the Notices concerned.

Statutory Notices were served upon the Owner of four cottages within the provisions of Section 138, Public Health Act, 1936, as amended by Section 30, Water Act, 1945, in relation to an insufficient water supply for the domestic purposes of the occupants.

An appeal was lodged by the owner and the case duly heard in the Court of Summary Jurisdiction. The Court ordered that the work be carried out within a period of two months. The owner complied with the order and the work was completed satisfactorily.

As foreshadowed in the previous year's report no Statutory Notices were served for the provision of dust-bins and under the new arrangement sixteen were supplied subject to the annual charge of 5/-. This only being done upon the non-compliance with an informal notice served upon the owner of the property.

No difficulties have yet been experienced with this arrangement.

A great amount of housing repair work has again been carried out to domestic property during the year upon the service of Sanitary Notices, in spite of the many difficulties encountered. In the main the work completed in this direction is carried out without recourse to legal action.

Certificates have been issued to local builders in support of their applications for controlled material, in order to carry out essential repairs to domestic property.

A detailed report was presented to the Health Committee in respect of the general condition of living accommodation above shop premises. An undertaking was received that the premises would not again be used for human habitation unless and until they had been rendered so fit to the satisfaction of the local authority.

The undertaking was accepted by the Council and the tenant re-housed in a Council house.

The Health and Housing Committees considered during the year the system of the letting of Council houses with particular reference to applicants residing under overcrowded conditions, with the result that an increased allocation was approved by the Council. This without a doubt will help in a very large measure to deal with such cases more speedily than in the past.

Each complaint of overcrowding is now carefully examined by both committees through the respective chairmen and presented to the Housing (Lettings) Committee with appropriate recommendations for final consideration.

Consideration has also been given by the Committee and Council to the question of sub-standard houses and it has been agreed upon that reports shall be made from time to time to the Committee of individual cases within this category, with a view not only to re-housing but in relation to the future of the property concerned.

In compliance with Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, fourteen applications were received for licences to erect or station and use moveable dwellings for human habitation. Nine licences were issued and in each instance were made subject to certain sanitary conditions being observed as set out in the licence. The remaining five were refused.

The indiscriminate tipping of industrial waste on a private disposal site caused some little concern to the Committee when a sub-committee was formed to discuss the problem with those concerned. A certain amount of improvement has been made but there is still room for more co-operation from the people responsible and so help to control a veritable eyesore. Active attention by the department is being given with this end in view.

During the year 830 dust bins were supplied and delivered to premises, including Council houses. Several were subject to an annual charge.

In addition to letters received requesting an inspection of premises 891 verbal complaints were given at the office. This was approximately an increase of 141 over the previous year's figure and 341 for the year 1950. Complaints are therefore shewing a decided increase and this may be due to various reasons, one of which is undoubtedly the difficulty experienced by tenants in securing the execution of repairs to property.

The small motor van obtained during the previous year as a temporary measure has now been replaced by the delivery of a modern type vehicle.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

In the period under review the department has been greatly concerned with this problem which it is felt will require more attention with the ever-increasing industrial development taking place in the district.

Close co-operation with the management of industry must be maintained in an endeavour to obtain the maximum results in this field and it is hoped that it will be found possible to hold a series of lectures on Smoke Abatement and Fuel Economy during the forthcoming year. Several firms have intimated their desire to participate with the department in this work.

It should never be lost sight of, however, that the ordinary domestic chimney makes quite a contribution to the problem of atmospheric pollution.

Several meetings with the management of one factory causing a nuisance have been held by a duly appointed sub-committee and close co-operation is being afforded on both sides. The company concerned are carrying out extensive measures to their process in an endeavour to abate the nuisance and this is much appreciated.

A meeting was also held in the Council Chamber when a number of interested persons and bodies were represented and a full discussion took place with the factory management.

In the case of a further factory, nuisance has been experienced by the emission of grit from their boiler plant. On the completion of investigations carried out by the firm's consultants in conjunction with the department and the Ministry of Fuel and Power, it was finally decided by the Company concerned to carry out an electrification scheme. It is unfortunate that some little delay will ensue before the scheme is put into effect due to supply of equipment and other circumstances.

The co-operation shewn in this instance is also appreciated by the department.

CAMPS

Only one former military camp in the District is now used for human habitation. With the exception of units constructed of permanent materials all units are being demolished as and when they become vacant either through rehousing of occupants by the Council or through their own endeavour.

At the present time 33 units are in use out of a former total of 35 at the camp.

Remarks made in previous reports indicated the need to deal with the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing and the action taken by the Council with this problem is to be appreciated.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

The number of houses found to be infested during the year was :—

(a)	Council Houses	...	...	9
(b)	Other Houses	...	...	11
(c)	Number Disinfested	...		20
(d)	Total visits	...	...	40

The number of houses treated shew a slight decrease over the previous year's figure. There still remain a number of individual cases where the standard of cleanliness is unsatisfactory.

All infested houses were treated with liquid and powder form of D.D.T., with satisfactory results. It is not generally considered now necessary to have wood-work removed in the bedrooms to facilitate disinfestation, due to the residual effect of D.D.T.

The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority, through the staff of the Sanitary Department.

DRAINS AND SEWERAGE.

There are two sewage disposal works in the District. The works at Little Stanney were erected during the year 1933, and designed for a population of 20,000; whilst the disposal works at Sunnyside Pontoon, known as the Town Works, were reconstructed and designed for a population of 7,000. An area is still drained under the Manchester Ship Canal to the River Mersey without treatment.

The scheme proposed by Mr. A. H. S. Waters, M.Inst., C.E., the Council's Consulting Engineer, in consultation with the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, to provide sewers and sewage disposal works for the Parish of Ince is still under consideration.

Instructions were given for a survey to be made of the property to be served by the proposed scheme and this work is now receiving attention.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The small River Gowy is within the Urban District and is bordered by oil works along its entire length in this District. It is tide-locked where it is syphoned below the Manchester Ship Canal to discharge into the River Mersey.

A great deal of pollution is evident due to trade effluents from neighbouring industries.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The greater part of the District is provided with clean water closets, but on the outskirts of the town where sewers are not available, some pails, privies, cesspools and septic tanks are in use.

Several septic tank and filter bed installations have been reconstructed on action taken by the Department during the year.

A service is in operation under the control of the Council's Engineer and Surveyor's Department for the regular cleansing of pail closets in the Parish of Ince.

SWIMMING POOL.

The Rivacre Swimming Pool is owned by the Council and has a swimming area of 1,567 square yards.

The water passes through a continuous bath purification plant which embodies two horizontal air-scoured pressure filters with a circulation pump capable of circulating the total contents of the Pool in a period of eight hours.

New chlorination plant was installed during the year 1949 and this has proved to be highly satisfactory.

Samples of water are taken at regular intervals.

SCHOOLS.

There are three Council Secondary Schools, ten Council Primary Schools and four Denominational Schools in the District.

All the schools are supplied with piped water from the West Cheshire Water Board's mains.

The Head Teachers of the various schools are immediately notified on occurrence of cases of infectious diseases in order to secure the exclusion of the contacts for the necessary period.

During the vacation, and at other times when found necessary, the schools are thoroughly disinfected.

CANAL BOATS.

Eight boats were inspected during the year and these were registered to carry 18 adults and 12 children.

The actual number found to be in occupation was 16 adults and four children.

Two Statutory Notices were served and remained in hand at the close of the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections.

Premises (1)	M/c. Line (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c. Line (7)
			Inspections (4)	Notices Written (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	10	2	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	110	8	—	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises) ...	3	1	—	—	—	3
TOTAL ...		121	10	—	—	

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	M/c. Line (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c. Line (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (5)	by H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4) ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(a) Insufficient ...	10	2	1	—	2	—	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
(c) Not separate for sexes ...							
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL ...	60	2	1	—	2	—	60

HOUSING

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	307
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,404
2.	(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932... ..	1
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	4
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	80

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	22
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
---	-----

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice	Nil
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority	Nil
B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	58
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice:—	
(a) By Owners	34
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Remaining in hand	24
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	Nil
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined but tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Seven applications for registration of food premises were received during the year under review. Six related to the sale of ice-cream and one for preserved foods. All were satisfactory and licences issued.

There are now 97 premises in the district registered within the provisions of Section 14.

Two establishments were closed after representation had been made by the Department in relation to non-compliance with the food byelaws.

A progressive step was taken by the Council in the provision of a new six-day open market. Properly designed food stalls have been constructed with full amenities provided.

All food exposed for sale on the market is from this type of stall and it can be said that a high standard of hygiene has been attained.

It is noted that an increasing number of food traders are availing themselves of some form or other of refrigeration. This is considered a progressive step and one which should be the aim of all concerned.

Risk associated with the rapid growth of bacteria in certain prepared foods is lessened as well as preventing to some degree the deterioration of perishable foods.

FOOD HYGIENE.

The Clean Food Joint Consultative Committee continues to play an important part in the work of food hygiene in the district and regular meetings have been held during the year.

The Multiple Food Traders and Licensed Victuallers' Association now have representatives to serve on this Committee which previously comprised the following associations, Grocers, Butchers, Greengrocers, Co-operative Society, Chamber of Trade and Trade Unions.

Amendments to the existing food byelaws were formulated and approved with a view to their adoption by the Council and the Ministry of Food.

The Ministry had at the close of the year expressed its informal approval to the amendments which no doubt will be brought into operation during the coming year. It is felt they will assist to further improve the standard of food handling.

A public meeting was held in the Council Chamber to which representatives from the various womens organisations were invited to attend. The object being to make known the work carried out by the Committee, to enquire from the meeting the views of such organisations in food hygiene and to make an earnest appeal for public support in this important work. The Chairman of the Council presided over the meeting which proved a success and many view-points were discussed.

A programme was approved and adopted for the holding of lectures in food hygiene to all food handlers. The course of instruction consisted of four lectures illustrated by film strips and the response has been most gratifying. Some 450 persons have attended the full course. Certificates have been issued to each person who completed the course and establishment certificates issued to the management when all personnel engaged at the particular premises have attended. In the latter case some 70 certificates have been granted.

The lectures were very ably conducted by a member of the staff who gave a great deal of his own time to lecturing during the evenings. A member of the Committee presided at the final lecture in each series and thanked the personnel for the interest they had shewn.

A social evening was arranged by the Committee for the presentation of certificates by the Chairman of the Council.

A public window display with food hygiene exhibits was arranged for two weeks in the Rates Offices situate in a main part of the town. This made quite an appeal to the public and proved a success. A photograph of one section of the display is shewn in the report.

Whilst it is considered that a great deal of progress has been made in the work of food hygiene in this district, much still remains to be done and the co-operation of all concerned is an absolute necessity to ensure continued success.



Section of Food Hygiene Display.

RESTAURANTS, CANTEENS, ETC.

It is now becoming possible to make routine visits of these premises and works of improvement have and are being carried out. In connection with samples of rinse water 21 were obtained for examination, nine being classified as "not satisfactory."

The double sink method of washing crockery, etc., is recommended by the Department wherever applicable. This entails the preliminary washing of utensils in one sink followed by immersion in another at a temperature of 180°F.

It is the practice of the Ministry of Food to notify the Department when new applications are received for catering licences in order to ensure they are suitable for the purpose and conform to requirements. This co-operation is appreciated.

FOOD INSPECTION AND SAMPLING.

In addition to routine work 86 special visits were paid to food premises at the request of the owners and the following foods were rejected being unfit for human consumption:—

81 tins Meat	1 jar Salad Cream
97 tins Peas	2 jars Beetroot
18 tins Fish	1 jar Pickled
68 tins Tomatoes	Cabbage
147 tins Milk	59 Eggs
2 tins Beans	64 packets Cheese
91 tins Soup	30 lbs. Sausage
16 tins Vegetables	12 cwts 3 qtrs 25 lbs
92 tins Fruit	Cooked Ham
4 tins Spaghetti	132 lbs. Fish
1 tin Potted Meat	21 lbs. Meat
2 jars Jam	3½lbs. Chocolate
3 jars Marmalade	38 lbs. Macaroni
75 jars Fruit	1 Rabbit

ICE-CREAM.

Fifty-six samples of ice-cream were taken for examination from all dealers and manufacturers during the year. This sampling is carried out on a rota basis whereby each trader is visited at irregular intervals.

Of the 56 samples obtained and examined in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry, 55 were placed in Grade I and one in Grade III. This is considered very satisfactory.

There are two establishments in the district who manufacture by the hot mix method. Conditions at both are satisfactory.

Close attention has been paid to itinerant ice-cream dealers in order to see that their vehicles are kept to standard in accordance with the code of practice in operation for this type of trader.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are 10 registered dairies and 30 distributors in the district. In addition six distributors bring milk into the area from outside districts as well as three registered wholesalers. These figures shew an increase of distributors over the previous year.

The work of milk sampling is carried out on a rota basis on the lines mentioned in previous reports.

One-hundred-and-one samples were obtained and sent to the bacteriologist for examination, each being examined in accordance with the designation applicable to the sample.

Of the 38 samples examined for Tuberculosis, one was returned positive. The necessary action was taken in respect of this latter report.

Ninety-six samples were examined in accordance with the designation. Eighty-three were satisfactory and "follow-up" action was taken in respect of the samples which failed the prescribed test.

Fifty-seven Dealers' Licences and seven Supplementary Licences were issued by the Local Authority under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.

An increasing number of retailers continue to obtain their supplies already bottled thus reducing the handling of milk to a minimum.

PART THREE

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

Three rodent operatives are employed together with a charge-hand whose part-time services are chargeable to rodent control.

The fullest co-operation is received from occupiers of property, particularly industrial premises. This results in the work being carried out without friction and is appreciated. A number of annual contracts are in operation and a free service is granted to occupiers of domestic property to clear any rat infestation.

Membership of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Workable Area Committee No. 22 has been continued and meetings attended which have been held at Birkenhead.

6,364 inspections were carried out by the rodent operatives with 823 poisoning campaigns undertaken. The total amount of "poison take" i.e. poison and bait combined, on all campaigns was Zinc Phosphide 65 lbs. 10 ozs., Red Squill 10 lbs. 15½ ozs., Arsenic 6 lbs. 9 ozs., Mafantu 6 lbs.

A formula prepared by the Ministry for the calculation of the estimated kill of the common rat when Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic are used shews that in respect of these two poisons used in campaigns, a total kill of 2,887 is arrived at for the year.

The number of bodies actually picked up were 348 rats and 206 mice.

A test baiting of 10 per cent of sewer manholes in the entire district were baited and "no takes" recorded in each instance. This was satisfactory and a certificate was issued by the Divisional Rodent Officer exempting the Council from undertaking any further action in the treatment of sewers during the financial year ending 31st March, 1952.

LIST OF LOCAL OR ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, ORDERS OR REGULATIONS IN FORCE, (so far as unrepealed) IN THE URBAN DISTRICT.

Ellesmere Port and Whitby Urban District Council Act, 1914					
Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	...	...	...	...	Adopted 1902
Private Street Works Act, 1892	...	...	...	...	Adopted 1902
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 (Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5)	...	...	...	...	Adopted 1902
Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 (Parts 2, 4 and 6)	...	...	...	...	Adopted 1909
Public Libraries Act, 1892	...	...	...	...	Adopted 1907
Order declaring certain trades to be offensive within the district	...	...	...	...	Adopted 1911
Public Health Acts, 1925 (Parts 2, except Section 20)	...	...	...	...	Adopted 1937
Subject matter.	Authority by whom made.	Area in which in force.		Date	Date of confirmation.
Libraries	Ellesmere Port U.D.C.	...	Whole Area	...	...
Pleasure Grounds	ditto.	...	ditto.	30/11/1936	13/1/1937
New Streets and Buildings...	Ellesmere Port and Whitby U.D.C.	...	Parishes of Ellesmere Port and Great Stanney	25/ 1/1937	31/5/1937
Tents, Vans and similar Structures	Wirral Rural District Council	...	Parishes of Great Sutton, Little Sutton and Hocton	26/10/1925	12/1/1926
† Omnibuses	ditto.	...	ditto.	19/ 2/1923	5/4/1923
Offensive Trades	ditto.	...	ditto.	19/11/1923	15/1/1925
Buildings	ditto.	...	ditto.	17/11/1924	8/1/1925
Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashpits and Cess-pools	...	...	...	17/11/1924	12/1/1925
Building Byelaws	Chester Rural District Council	...	Parish of Luce	28/ 2/1923	28/4/1924
Flaunting, Wrapping and delivery and sale of food in the open air	Ellesmere Port U.D.C.	...	Whole Urban Area	29/ 1/1940	11/7/1940
	ditto.		ditto.	29/12/1949	12/4/1950

† These were in effect repealed by Section 122 and the 5th Schedule to the Road Traffic Act, 1930, which repeals the Town Police Clauses Act, 1889, so far as it related to public service vehicles.

Annual Report on Health Services of South West Cheshire Division for Year 1951

INTRODUCTION

During the year the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor J. Groome, of Ellesmere Port Urban District Council, retired from the Chair, which he had held since the formation of the Committee in 1948. He was succeeded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor S. Grimshaw, Chester Rural District Council.

The Committee decided during the year to recommend the County Council to change the name of the Division from "Ellesmere Port" to "South West Cheshire."

The Committee has held 11 Meetings during the year, the average attendance being 15 members out of a total of 37.

The Division comprises the Ellesmere Port and Hoole Urban Districts and Chester and Tarvin Rural Districts. The total population according to the provisional census figures taken in 1951 was 81,441 and the area is 116,086 acres, which is the equivalent of 0.70 persons per acre. The number of inhabited houses is 20,928 and the combined rateable value is £477,276.

The provision of Child Welfare Centres is now fairly well distributed throughout the Divisional Area. There remain just one or two isolated Centres of population that are without these amenities, notably Boughton and Ince.

There is still a popular demand for places in the two Day Nurseries. This is especially the case at the Ellesmere Port Day Nursery, where a large Waiting List is always maintained. The attendance figures at both Day Nurseries are higher than in the previous year. Minor ailments and

infectious diseases are the chief factors causing periodic fluctuations in attendances and so reducing the daily average attendances to a modest level.

The work of the Ambulance Service shows no material change from the previous year when the Committee recommended a further Ambulance, together with driver and attendant for its more efficient operation. The Service continued during the year to operate under difficulties with a minimum number of ambulances and staff. The need for more adequate Depot accommodation is a matter for urgent consideration also.

Prevention, Care and After-care of Tuberculosis continues to occupy much of the time and activities of the office staff and the County Health Visitors, and involves regular visits to the homes of persons on the Register, enquiries into housing conditions and arrangements for the examination of contacts of new cases. There is much activity also in dealing with the problems of the aged, sick and infirm who are visited with regularity until Hospital or other suitable accommodation is found for them.

There has been steady increase in the use of the Domestic Help Service. A great number of those using this Scheme are the aged, sick and infirm, many of whom are unable, or in some cases unwilling, to secure hospital accommodation.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

South West Cheshire Divisional Health Committee

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1951.

N.H.S. ACT, 1946 (SECTION 22) — CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

A—Mothers' Clinics:

	New Cases.	Total Attendances.
Ante-Natal	457	2,628
Post-Natal	123	159
Dental:		
Pre-Natal	2	2
Nursing Mothers	2	5
Dentures Supplied		1

B—Young Children's Clinics:

(1) Infant Welfare —

To 1 year	948	10,195
Aged 1—5 years	278	3,385

(2) Specialist —

Ophthalmic	70	190
Dental Treatment (Under 5)	87	106
E.N.T. (Under 5)	61	65

Daily
Average No. Total
Attending. Attendances.

(3) Day Nurseries —

Aged 0—2 years	22	5,487
Aged 2—5 years	58	14,501

SPECIAL COMMENTS

Welfare Centres:

The question of supplying and fitting a new boiler at the Ellesmere Port Child Welfare Centre was discussed by the Committee and a quotation for this work was referred to the District Architect for his consideration and any necessary action. The Committee recommended the conversion of part of the pram shelter into an additional Dental Clinic. Consideration of the conversion of the rest of the pram shelter into a cleansing room and Health Visitors' office was deferred indefinitely.

It was recommended that the upper part of the Hoole Welfare Centre be converted into a flat for use by the Health Visitor.

Steps were taken to improve the heating arrangements at the Overpool Child Welfare Centre.

Arrangements were made with the Ministry of Food for National Dried Milk, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil to be made available at Overpool and Little Sutton Welfare Centres.

On the 27th June, 1951, the Huntington Welfare Centre was opened at the Village Hall, Huntington, where sessions are held fortnightly on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.

Arrangements were made with Crosville Motor Services Ltd., for the provision of a 'bus to run twice monthly between Ince, Elton and Thornton-le-Moors, and the Child Welfare Centre, Ellesmere Port, until a building suitable for holding a Clinic is available in the Ince area.

Day Nurseries:

Ellesmere Port:

Arrangements were made with the Ellesmere Port Urban District Council for the re-planting and maintenance of the gardens at the Ellesmere Port Day Nursery and a decided improvement was effected.

Approval was given by the County Staffing and Salaries Committee, for the appointment of a Certificated Nursery Nurse in place of a Probationer.

During the year, the Nursery was broken into twice, and on the second occasion the burglars (small boys) were apprehended. Food was tampered with, but nothing was taken away.

Attendances were maintained during the year, and there were no major interruptions due to infectious disease.

Little Sutton:

During the year, repairs were effected to the chestnut fencing at this Nursery.

Sickness amongst the staff during the year combined with normal staff holidays imposed a strain on the staff and complicated the general maintenance of this Nursery. In an attempt to alleviate this situation a temporary Nursery Assistant was employed during the holiday season.

Attendances were well maintained until the latter part of the year, when an outbreak of measles in the district affected the Nursery.

General:

Consequent upon the receipt of the Comparative Statement on the cost of Day Nurseries for the year ended 31st March, 1951, a Meeting was arranged with the Matrons of both Day Nurseries, to discuss the matters involved.

The daily costs per child at the Day Nurseries during the year were:—

Little Sutton	10/4d.
Ellesmere Port	10/8 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Toys to the value of £10 were purchased for each of the two Nurseries and successful Christmas Parties were held for the children.

(Section 23).

MIDWIVES

Number of births:— 1,496 (including 36 Stillbirths).
(Adjusted for inward and outward transfers).

(Section 25).

HOME NURSING

A tender was approved for the repair and decoration of the District Nurse's house at Mouldsworth, and electric light was installed at the house of the District Nurse, Malpas.

Several County-owned cars used by District Nurse/Midwives received minor and major repairs, and a new Ford Anglia car (8 h.p.) was delivered to the District Nurse, Tilston. The old car, a Morris (8 h.p.) was sold for the sum of £157.

The District Nurse at Upton was supplied with a new bicycle and the Nurse at Hoole with an Autocycle, for their duties.

(Section 26).

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Measures were taken to publicise immunisation and to encourage parents to take advantage of the services available for the benefit of children. It was decided by the Committee that a Report on these measures be circulated to each Local Authority and General Practitioner in the Divison. Investigations were also made into the possibility of exhibiting Film Trailers in both the Urban and Rural areas of the Division.

Total fees paid for the period 1.7.50—31.12.51 amounted to £617. 15s. 0d.

Statistics are as stated below:—

A. VACCINATION.

1. Primary Vaccination —	Males.	Females.	Total.
(1) Pre-School Children	263	246	509
(2) School Children	7	8	15
(3) Adults	11	31	42
	—	—	—
Total:	281	285	566
	—	—	—

2. Re-Vaccination —					Males.	Females.	Total.
(1) Pre-School Children	...	...	...		2	1	3
(2) School Children	...	...	...		6	4	10
(3) Adults	...	...	...		27	75	102
Total:					35	80	115

B. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Incomplete.					Males.	Females.	Total.
(1) Pre-School Children	...	...	...		137	131	268
(2) School Children	...	...	...		2	3	5
Total:					139	133	273

Completed.					Males.	Females.	Total.
(1) Pre-School Children	...	...	...		398	394	792
(2) School Children	...	...	...		12	12	24
Total:					410	406	816

Re-Immunisation.					Males.	Females.	Total.
All Children	...	...	...		59	74	133

C. OTHER IMMUNISATION

(e.g. WHOOPING COUGH).

					Males.	Females.	Total.
(1) Pre-School Children	...	...	...		35	28	63
(2) School Children	...	...	...		4	2	6
Total:					39	30	69

These figures are not final as records are still being received for services performed during 1951.

Details of figures (where they relate to more than one Clinic) are given hereunder:—

								New Cases.	Total Attendances.
Eye Clinics:									
Hoole	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	21
Ellesmere Port	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59	169
Number of Children under five for whom spectacles were prescribed									40
Number of cases recommended for hospital treatment									22

Ante and Post-Natal Clinics:

Hoole —									
Ante-Natal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41	100
Post-Natal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54	89
Ellesmere Port —									
Ante-Natal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	416	2,528
Post-Natal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	69	70

								Daily Average No. Attending.	Total Attendances.
Day Nurseries:									
Ellesmere Port —									
Aged 0—2 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	4,088
Aged 2—5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	7,273
Little Sutton —									
Aged 0—2 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1,397
Aged 2—5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	7,228

						New Cases.		Total Attendances.	
Weliarc Centres:						0—1	1—5	0—1	1—5
Barrow	...	...	...	...	...	13	8	160	141
Ellesmere Port	...	...	...	...	...	353	110	3,909	973
Farndon	...	...	...	...	...	26	11	170	110
Hoole	...	...	...	...	...	165	37	1,804	257
Huntington	...	...	...	...	...	20	8	166	161
Kelsall	...	...	...	...	...	28	3	293	315
Little Sutton	...	...	...	...	...	102	14	1,436	294
Malpas	...	...	...	...	...	24	10	291	143
Saughall	...	...	...	...	...	34	19	360	151
Upton	...	...	...	...	...	71	15	610	277
Tattenhall	...	...	...	...	...	25	7	283	278
Tarvin	...	...	...	...	...	23	4	255	146
Overpool	...	...	...	...	...	65	32	458	139
TOTALS:						949	278	10,195	3,385

(Section 27).

AMBULANCE SERVICES

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Number of Vehicles.	Total Number of Journeys.	Total Number of Patients Carried.	Number of Accident and Emergency Journeys included in Column 3.	Total Mileage.
A. Directly Provided :					
Ambulances	3	2,702	4,995	454	51,593
Cars	2	1,604	3,188	34	43,007
B. By Agency :					
Ambulances	5	895	895	153	11,636
Cars	—	—	—	—	—
(Chester City Ambulance).					
C. Supplementary :					
Ambulances	—	—	—	—	—
Cars	—	681	815	—	18,179
(W.V.S. Taxi, etc.).					
D. Number of Drivers (other than Commercial) available for Supple- mentary Services included in "C" above... ..					8

It will be observed from the Table set out below that mileage performed by vehicles of the Divisional Ambulance Service has not materially altered during the past year.

	Mileage 1950	Mileage 1951
C.C.C. Ambulances	51,193	51,593
C.C.C. Cars	47,502	43,007
Totals...	98,695	94,600

A Sub-Committee formed to review the existing arrangements for Ambulance Services in the Division recommended that the staff and vehicle establishments be increased by one ambulance, one car, two drivers and one attendant, and that a new Depot be provided.

It was agreed that an area of land, approximately 2,520 square yards, should be acquired. This land is situated on the site of the proposed Ellesmere Port Town Centre and adjacent the new Fire Station Site.

On 17th April, a new Austin 16 h.p. Sitting Case Car was received to replace the Ford 10 h.p. car, which was transferred to a District Nurse in the Bebington Division.

Two accidents occurred during the year involving the Humber Ambulance and the Standard Sitting Case Car respectively.

Safe Driving Diplomas for 1950 were presented to the following drivers :—

Stanley Barratt.
Fred Beautyman.
Leonard Thomas Lloyd.

The presentation was made by the Chairman at a meeting of the Divisional Health Committee, and the Press were invited to attend. After the presentation a further award was received in respect of a driver (A. Whiteley), who had over 15 years safe driving to his credit.

As the result of the resignation of a Sitting Case Car Driver, an Ambulance Attendant was promoted to Sitting Case Car Driver and a new Ambulance Attendant appointed in his place. A further vacancy caused by the resignation of an Ambulance Attendant was also filled.

A list of premises and sites proposed to be earmarked in connection with Civil Defence Ambulance Services in this Division was approved by the Committee.

The establishment of vehicles and personnel as fixed by the Divisional Committee and approved by the County Staffing Committee is as follows :—

VEHICLES							
Ambulances	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sitting Case Cars	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							—
							5
							—
PERSONNEL							
Senior Driver...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ambulance Drivers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ambulance Attendants...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sitting Case Car Drivers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Part Time Drivers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
							—
							10
							..

(Section 28).

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS — CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

TUBERCULOSIS

A. Number of Cases investigated in Division :—

(1) TUBERCULOSIS—

(a)	Number of forms C. & A.C.4 completed	33
	(Primary Investigation).	
(b)	Number of forms C. & A.C. 22 completed	216
	(Follow-up Visits).	
(c)	Number of cases where patient has been found to have :—	
	(a) Removed from area	1
	(b) Been cured	2
	(c) Died	4

All cases of chronic illness awaiting admission to Chronic Wards or suitable Institutions are visited regularly by Health Visitors until admission is effected.

B. Number of Cases placed in employment (Disabled Persons Act) 2
(Handymen at Ellesmere Port Day Nursery).

C. Particulars of loans of nursing equipment, charges made and details of applicants unable to pay full amount:—

One case was brought to the attention of the Committee of a person unable to pay deposit and rental charges in connection with the loan of a wheelchair. It was resolved to waive the charges.

A new shelter was provided and repairs executed on a shelter already in use.

The No. 3 Mass Radiography Unit paid a further visit to the Ellesmere Port district from 24th October, 1951, to 28th December, 1951, thus providing a valuable aid in connection with Prevention, Care and Aftercare in this Division.

Arrangements were made for the admission of four cases into Convalescent Homes under the County Council Scheme, two mothers with their children and two elderly people recovering from illnesses.

On 12th September, 1951, members of the Committee and officials paid a visit to Barrowmore Hospital and Industries, and were extremely impressed with the excellent work carried out at this establishment for the treatment and care of cases of tuberculosis.

Statistics relating to Tuberculosis cases in the Division are given overleaf.

STATISTICS RELATING TO CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON NOTIFICATION REGISTERS OF DISTRICT COUNCILS IN THE DIVISION

	MALES			FEMALES			TOTAL		
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total Cases
1. Cases on Register at 1.1.51	165	77	242	160	67	227	325	144	469
2. Cases notified and transfers into area during year.	35	4	39	17	2	19	52	6	58
3. Number of cases removed from Register during year.	19	2	21	12	2	14	31	4	35
4. Cases on Register at 31.12.51	183	79	262	175	67	242	358	146	504†

† This figure is made up as follows:—

	Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Total.
1. Ellesmere Port U.D.C.	...	...	180	69	249
2. Hoole U.D.C.	...	...	41	10	51
3. Chester R.D.C.	...	...	76	28	104
4. Tarvin R.D.C.	...	...	61	39	100
Total:	358	146			504

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, 1951

District	Disease																							
	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Polio- myelitis		Measles		Diphtheria		Acute Pneu- monia		Dysen- tery		Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Para- typhoid Fever		Erys- ipelas		Menin- gococcal Infection		Puer- peral Py- rexia	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Ellesmere Port Urban District	29	24	45	48	1	3	190	195	-	2	10	13	3	3	-	-	-	2	2	4	-	-	2	
Hoole Urban District	11	6	19	24	-	-	30	24	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	
Chester Rural District	9	5	28	12	1	-	121	117	-	-	20	24	12	15	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Tarvin Rural District	6	9	16	15	-	-	153	140	-	-	25	19	12	10	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	
TOTALS	55	44	108	99	2	3	494	476	-	2	58	57	27	28	-	3	1	2	4	6	1	-	2	

(Section 29).

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

There has been a steady increase in the number of applications for Domestic Helps and the number of cases attended in the Divisional Area. A review of these cases shows that over 40% of the cases attended during the financial year 1950/51, were old age pensioners. A total of 30,231½ hours were performed and contributions were received to the amount of £189. 19s. 4d. The total cost to the County Council on these cases amounted to approximately £2,833.

Every effort was made, in conjunction with the Health Visitors, to keep costs down to a minimum without impairing the efficiency of the Service.

A. Number of new Applicants	182
B. Number of Domestic Helps working:—	
(a) Permanent	1
(b) Temporary	121
C. Number of cases attended	216
D. Special cases for report	24

Twenty-four cases were brought to the attention of the Committee during the year. In six cases, no reduction was allowed; in ten cases the contribution was reduced, and no contribution was required in five cases. Two cases of long standing arrears were written off as irrecoverable as also was a third amount due to the death of the patient.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — PART III

In my capacity as the Representative of the County Medical Officer of Health, I carried out my usual visits of inspection to Shotwick House, Great Saughall. Very little change had taken place since 1950, and the excellent conditions of this Establishment continued to maintain a high level.

HEALTH EDUCATION

During Hoole Festival week a Baby Show was held at which leaflets and posters were provided for exhibition and distribution; these posters and remaining leaflets were afterwards distributed to Welfare Centres in the Division.

Posters dealing with the treatment of Venereal Disease and Diphtheria Immunisation were sent to the Welfare Centres and Council Offices for exhibition.

A Meeting was convened by the Hoole Old People's Welfare Committee at which the County Welfare Officer, the Deputy Council Medical Officer, the Divisional Medical Officer, a Health Visitor and a District Nurse were invited to give short addresses on the measures taken in the County for the welfare of the aged.

PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH

Two districts within the Division (Hoole and Tattenhall) were selected by the Medical Research Council for research which was carried out with regard to poliomyelitis.

DIVISIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Consequent upon his appointment to the County Health Department, Mr. A. S. Jones resigned his position as Chief Clerk to the Divisional Committee, as from 1st June, 1951.

Five applicants on the short list were interviewed by the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and the Divisional Medical Officer, and Mr. G. O. Ellis, of Oswestry, was appointed to fill the vacancy created. Mr. Ellis commenced his duties on 25th June, 1951.

RE-NAMING OF DIVISIONAL AREA

It was decided to recommend the County Council to change the name of the Divisional Area to "South West Cheshire Division." The approval of the County Health Committee was obtained and the change was effected during the week ended 23rd June, 1951.

ESTIMATES, 1952/53

The estimates for the year 1952/53 were submitted, and the following summary was recommended to the County Health Committee for approval and inclusion in the block estimates, viz:—

	£
Vaccination and Immunisation	410
Domestic Help Service	7,043
Ambulance Service	11,418
Health Propaganda	25
Child Welfare Centres	6,018
Day Nurseries, Ellesmere Port and Little Sutton ...	11,568
Ante-Natal Clinic, Ellesmere Port	445
Home Nursing	700
Occupational Therapy	25
Convalescent Treatment for Mothers and Babies ...	150
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care	145
Administration	3,538
TOTAL:	£41,485

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